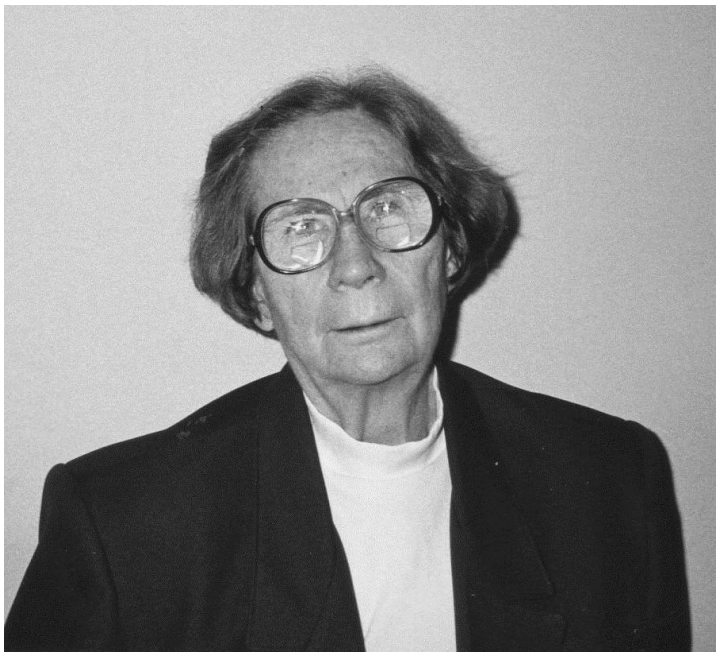

EMMA JEAN LANDRUM
Biographical Data: Born 1926 in Daytona Beach, Florida
Education: Graduated University of North Carolina, Greensboro with Bachelor's degree in 1946; studied both mathematics and physics; Master's degree in Physics from the College of William & Mary in 1961
NACA/NASA Experience: Employed 1946-1978; Computer, 24 Inch High Speed Tunnel; Head Computer; Research Engineer 1950s-on, focusing on aeronautical research on wings and bodies; research in airflow, transonic, and supersonic flight

During her senior year of college, Emma Jean Landrum was recruited by Virginia Tucker to work at NACA. Six math majors out of her class of twelve ended up getting jobs at Langley that year. She was assigned directly to the 24 Inch High Speed Tunnel (Building 585), located next to Building 60 (now Building 580) in the East Area. The computers worked upstairs, in an office that was in "basically a hallway." Landrum recalled this office being "hot as Hades" because it got afternoon sun; so hot, in fact, that at times the varnish would melt off the chairs. Upon first arriving in Hampton, Landrum lived in Anne Wythe Hall, a dormitory complex built to house female NACA employees, and remembered meeting Vivian Adair, another computer, on the bus in to work on her first day at Langley.

Over the course of her thirty-two year career at NACA/NASA, Landrum advanced to be a supervisor of other computers, and continued her education, earning a Master's degree in Physics in 1961. In the 1950s, she became an engineer, focusing on aeronautical research on wings and bodies.

Sources: Beverly Golemba, *Human Computers: The Women in Aeronautical Research*, unpublished manuscript 1994, NASA Langley Archives.
"Panel Discussion with Women Computers" NASA Langley videotape, December 13 1990.